Marshall Milling Company Complex, Capitola Dam
Crosses French Broad River
Marshall
Madison County
North Carolina

HAER No. NC-19B

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CAPITOLA DAM HAER No. NC-19-B

Location: The concrete dam crosses the French Broad River from just above the grist mill and cotton mill buildings to the upper section of the town of Marshall, Madison County, North Carolina

U.S.G.S. Marshall Quadrangle Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17.348000.3962320

Present Owner: French Broad Electric Membership Corporation

Present Use: Inactive

Significance: The significance of the Capitola Dam derives from its use as the power source for both the Marshall Milling Company grist mill and the Capitola Manufacturing Company cotton mill.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

It is not clear at what time the concrete dam across the French Broad River was constructed. It is thought by some that the concrete was poured when the railroad tracks between Redmon and Marshall were moved around 1910. The dam served for many years as the power supply for the mills on the south side of the river.

For chain of title, see Marshall Milling Company Grist Mill (HAER No. NC-19-A), Part I, Historical Information.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The concrete dam is approximately 500 feet long and 9 feet high. The concrete sluiceway is approximately 116 feet long with ten inoperable gates. The sluiceway is connected to the end of the dam nearest the intake canal. The concrete intake structure for the intake canal has inoperable gates. The gates are about 5 feet wide and 10 feet high.

The intake canal is approximately 575 feet long, bounded by a steep rock-faced river bank on one side and a concrete retaining wall on the other. The canal is approximately 80 feet wide at the intake gates and tapers down to 20 feet about 240 feet from the gates. Both the canal and the intake structure have collected silt, vegetation, and debris during the years of inactivity. The brick powerhouse is approximately 20 feet square and sits on a concrete foundation. It is located at the end of the intake canal and shares a common wall with the cotton mill building.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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Asheville Citizen Times, March 29, 1951, "Coxe Buys Mill Property."

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Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, Charles R. Tolley, General Manager, in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in consultation with the Rural Electrification Administration and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer as a mitigative effort in the completion of the Capitola Dam Rehabilitation Project. Documentation was prepared by the J. E. Sirrine Company, North Carolina Division, between January 1981 and June 1982, Robin H. Spinks, Project Manager and Historian; Sharon L. Harris, Architect; H. Vance Holt, Civil Engineer; Steve S. Chao, Structural Engineer; Lori I. Cooke, Editor; and Mary Jo Brezny, Photographer.